

- Dig safely
- Join the Career Tour
- Attend annual meeting
- Additional scholarship opportunities available

Celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day

As we approach National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, we would like to highlight our lineworkers and the crucial work they do at KEM Electric Cooperative.

Our crews maintain and repair electrical infrastructure in all weather conditions for our members from Steele to Ashley. Their dedication and

knowledge ensure our rural communities have the power to live, work and thrive 24/7/365.

You have probably seen, or even know a crew member or two from the KEM Electric team, but we would like to share a bit more about each of our lineworkers. If you see them working, feel free to wave and say hello. ⚡

Get to know our dedicated lineworkers:

"Lineworkers are responsible for keeping the electricity flowing to homes and businesses by servicing the power lines that deliver it."



KEVIN HORNER, Linton area foreman, 12 years

The job of a lineworker is to install, maintain and repair high-voltage power lines, typically working outdoors on electrical transmission and distribution systems, including climbing poles to access equipment, often responding to emergencies like power outages caused by weather events.

What interested you about becoming a lineworker? Lineworkers are essential workers who make a tangible difference in the lives of others. They are the first responders of the electrical world, braving harsh weather conditions and hazardous situations to restore power during outages, repair damaged lines and maintain the grid.

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? They are always willing to help us out when we need it.

What are you doing when you are not working? Hanging out with family and ranching
If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak

"As a lineworker, I am able to work outside and meet the members."



TYLER JACOB, journeyman lineworker, 7 years

The job of a lineworker is to keep the lights on.

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Getting to meet the members

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? They are always willing to help out in any way.

What are you doing when you are not working? Snowmobiling, hunting, camping
If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Pizza

"I like working outside and with the members."



MARTIN MESSER, Steele area foreman, 12 years

The job of a lineworker is keeping the lights on.

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? Their willingness to help when needed

What are you doing when you are not working? Spending time with my family, hunting and fishing

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak

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"The job of a lineworker is demanding and rewarding. It is a good career."



AUSTIN OHLHAUSER, journeyman lineworker, 12 years

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Working outside

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? They are always willing to help

What are you doing when you are not working? Spending time with family and friends

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Pizza

"I like the challenges of electricity and troubleshooting when things are not working."



KIRK PRAUS, journeyman lineworker, 11 years

The job of a lineworker is to maintain safe and reliable electric service to the members of the cooperative.

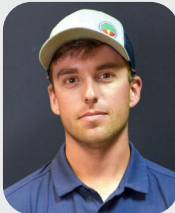
What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Working outdoors with some of the best and hardest-working men around

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? They are understanding and have patience when disaster strikes.

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting, fishing and camping

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Gas station egg rolls

"I enjoy the challenges of the trade."



TYLER SCHUMMER, journeyman lineworker, 5 years

The job of a lineworker is to maintain and provide reliable power.

What interested you about becoming a lineworker? Working outdoors

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? Their reliability

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting/fishing

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Spaghetti

"I like working outside and meeting the members"



DILLON STEINOLFSON, journeyman lineworker, 6 years

The job of a lineworker is to keep the lights on.

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? They are willing to help when needed

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting and golfing

If you had to eat the same meal every day for a week, what would it be? Steak

"I like visiting with the co-op's members."



JAKE ZINK, journeyman lineworker, 17 years

The job of a lineworker is to build and maintain the grid and keep the power on.

What interested you about becoming a lineworker? Nine months of school

What do you appreciate about KEM Electric members? They are always willing to help if we need them.

What are you doing when you are not working? Fishing

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Cheeseburger and fries

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

The power behind your power



Jason Bentz
Co-General Manager/CEO

You've likely noticed KEM Electric Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret a lineworker's job is tough, but it's essential and must often be done in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day April 14, I thought I would share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water.

And lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. If you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career, because it's not just a job. It's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours in difficult conditions outdoors. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training or about four years? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, KEM Electric's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. KEM Electric has eight

lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7/36. To do this, they maintain 2,911 miles of power lines across three counties and 3,708 miles.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

While lineworkers are the most visible faces of our cooperative, it's essential to acknowledge the team of highly skilled professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes. From engineers providing invaluable expertise, to member service representatives fielding inquiries and IT experts safeguarding sensitive data, each member of our cooperative family plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability of our services.

So, the next time you see our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. ⚡



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS:

Unclaimed capital credits



Marcy Sanders
Manager of
Member Relations

KEM Electric Cooperative needs new addresses to mail members their capital credit allocation statements and/or capital credit check from last year.

Using their last known address, the following list of KEM Electric members were mailed allocation statements and/or checks, which were returned from the post office because it was "not a deliverable address," "unable to

forward" or "attempted not known."

If you know of a current address, please call the KEM Electric office at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673. These are unclaimed capital credit allocations as of March 13. Visit our website for an up to date list of unclaimed capital credits. ⚡

ACKERMAN, EDWARD R.
ADAMS, WILLIAM H.
ALYEA, DONNA
BACHMEIER, BETTY
BAISCH, DARELL
BOSCH, EUGENE P.
BOSCH, PATTY
BOSCH, CLYDE
BOSCH, CALVIN
BRAUN, DONAVIN
BURLINGTON
NORTHERN RAILWAY
SAN
CENTURY 21 MORRISON
REALTY
COMPAAN, LORETTA
DAVIS, LES
DENDINGER, JOHN
DERHEIM, MARY
DIEGEL, DELORIS
DOCKTER, DONALD
EAST RIVER LIVESTOCK
EKSTEIN, EDNA
ELL, LAWRENCE G.
ERBELE, ELDA
ERICKSON, BEN
FEIST, PHYLLIS
FEIST, MARK
FEIST, ROBERT L.
FEY, CLYDE
FRANSEN, JAN
GEORGE, CLINT
GIESE, LLOYD
GLAESMAN, DERRICK
GLAESMAN, TRAVIS
GRENZ, MATTHEW
GRINSTEINER, DAVE
GROSS, CAROLYN
GROSS, TIM
GROSS, TERRY LEE

GROSS, VAL J.
HAAS, DALE H.
HARTER, TARA
HIMMELSPACH,
WILLIAM
HOCHHALTER, WALTER
HOLZER, PAUL P.
HUBER, MYRON L.
JANGULA BROTHERS
JOB, SANDY Y.
KANE PIPELINE
PARTNERSHIP
KAPP, RANDY
KETTERLING, GINA
KETTERLING TRUST
KLEIN, CHARLES J.
KNOLL, WILBUR C.
KNUDSON, JASON
KRUMM, DAVID
KUNZ, MICHAEL J.
LANG, EVELYN
LAUINGER, JERRY
LEE, BRODRICK
MAIER, CHRIS JR.
MANN, MIKE
MASTEL, DENNIS
MEIDINGER, CORDELL
MEYER, HARVEY
MILLER, JERRY
MOCH, TROY
MOCK, ANTHONY
MOSSET, MRS. JOE
NIES, CURTIS
NIEUWSMA, RAYMOND
NIEUWSMA, STEVE
NIEUWSMA, IRENE
NITSCHKE, CLIFFORD
NORD, CHARLES
NORTHERN PLAINS
NATURAL GAS CO.

OLIVER, KEVIN W.
PALS, CHARLES
PFEIFER, CHARLES
PRESZLER, TERRY
REIS, LORRAINE
REUER, CAROL L.
RODENBURG, TODD
ROESLER, ALVIN D.
ROSENBLUTH, HAL
ROSENBLUTH TRAVEL
RUDY, GORDON
SAMUELSON, DANIEL S.
SAVILLE, RAY W.
SCHAFFER, JACK JR.
SCHAUER, MELVIN J.
SCHILLING, JAMES
SCHLENKER, KURT
SCHLOSSER, WILLIAM
SCHLOSSER, JOE
SCHULTES, CLARENCE J.
SCHWAB, JACK D.
SELZLER, ROGER
SILBERNAGEL, STEVE
SMITH, AME
SOULE, GLORIA
SPERLE, CAROLYN
ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN
CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
STADING, BEN
STEWART, LYNETTE
STROH, MARK
STROH, BRYAN
STROH, SHAWN
STROM, MYRON
SVANES, ALAN
TED'S MINNOWS
TERNES, DUANE
THE RIVERY
THURN, MARLENE

VANDER VORST, CHAD
VANDER VORSTE, LOUIS
VETSCH, MARY
VOLZ, NORMA J.
W&S RANCH
WAHL, MONTE
WALD, DUANE A.
WANGLER, DARCY J.
WASTE MANAGEMENT
LINTON
WESTERN WIRELESS
WESTERN WIRELESS
CORPORATION
WUEST, HERBERT O.
WOHL, CLARENCE
WOLFF, LONNIE

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

National Safe Digging Month



Dale Nagel

Chief of Staff/
Line Superintendent

April is recognized as National Safe Digging Month, and we remind members to call 811 before digging, no matter how big or small the project may be. Even small tasks like planting a tree or bush may cause damage to utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs, and may cause injury. Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines are located on your property.

Be prepared to share the following information about the project property to North Dakota One Call:

- Name and contact information
- Proposed digging date and time

- Legal description
- County, city, street address
- Nearest intersecting street
- Name of the property owner
- Type of work planned as well as extent of work and depth

Within a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the location of any utility owned underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint, so you'll know what's below. That is when the safe digging can begin.

Keep in mind, utilities are not required to mark any private lines, such as sprinkler systems and pool heaters, as well as any electrical, propane or natural gas lines that are after the meter.

For more information about local services, visit www.ndonecall.com. ⚡

LUCK-OF-THE-DRAW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Each year at our Annual Meeting, KEM Electric awards two \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships. This year we will be offering five Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships at our Annual Meeting June 10 in Linton! All high school seniors who are dependents of KEM Electric members are eligible for this scholarship. RSVPs are appreciated before the meeting but not required. Students must register and attend our Annual Meeting to be eligible for the scholarship.

**These additional scholarships come from three schools in our service area which we did not have a graduating senior scholarship application.*

Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit our website at www.kemelectric.com for further details.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Planting safety tips

Agriculture is the backbone of rural communities across our service area. Soon, wheels will begin to turn for spring planting.

Farming equipment has increased in size over the years, so those operating machinery need to take extra precautions when moving equipment down the road or planting in fields with overhead lines nearby. Staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

"Planting is a busy time for everyone in our rural communities," says Jake Zink, a journeyman lineworker. "It is important to always be aware of your surroundings, even if you are frequenting a familiar place."

To help ensure a safe planting season, here are a few tips while in the farmyard, traveling on the road and working in the field.

- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines. An 18-foot clearance is recommended under power lines.
- **Be aware of the clearance of equipment extensions and materials you are hauling before moving or transporting.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, nonmetallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay, can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death. If you need power lines to be raised or moved to help with moving large machinery this season, give our office a call at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666, so we can safely assist you. Remember, if your equipment comes into contact



with an energized or downed power line, call 911 immediately. Stay inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. If there is smoke or fire, exit by jumping clear of the cab without touching the equipment and hop away to safety. We also urge you to contact your electric cooperative for additional assistance.

We know spring is an exciting and busy time, but we hope you will take a few extra minutes to check that you and your surroundings are clear to ensure a safe planting season. On behalf of all of us at KEM Electric, we wish you all a safe and prosperous planting season. ⚡



JOIN KEM ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR

EXPLORE NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY SECTOR WITH US.

Limited spots available. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.kemelectric.com.

Application deadline is April 25.



EMPOWERING COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES:

Attend your Annual Meeting

KEM Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2025 Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 10, in Linton at the Linton Community Center, formally the Our Club Hall. Registration will begin at 4 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 5 p.m. and the membership meal after the business meeting.

The Annual Meeting is a special time for members to gather, share experiences, hear from our leadership and vote to elect board directors. We know the food, camaraderie and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

The Annual Meeting also offers the opportunity to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric cooperative member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. KEM Electric is operated by a democratically elected board given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

During this year's voting process for your cooperative, KEM Electric will be offering multiple voting options. You will have the opportunity to vote online, by mail or at the annual meeting.

If a member casts a timely vote prior to the meeting by mail or online, the member will not receive a ballot at the Annual Meeting. Members will receive the 2024 Annual Report and the election paper ballot in

the mail around the middle of May. Included in this mailing are voting instructions for all three voting options. Please vote by mail or online, unless you know you will be attending the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 10.

As an added thank you for joining us at the Annual Meeting, all who attend will be entered for the chance to win door prizes, which will range from Medora Musical tickets to bill credits. We hope to see you there! ⚡



Congratulations BRADY POOL, STRASBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL!

FEBRUARY TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Throughout the school year, KEM Electric is choosing one student at random who has been nominated from the schools in KEM Electric's service area to receive a \$125 sponsorship in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative. The funds can be utilized to the student's choosing for school activities.

In **April**, KEM Electric will be accepting nominations of students who are **homeschooled or live outside the service area**, who are dependents of a KEM member.

The deadline for nominations is April 15. This sponsorship is open to any K-12 student.

"Brady is a kind and helpful young man to everyone."

"He is hardworking at everything he does"



Scan the QR code to nominate a student or for more information, or visit www.kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month.

KEM ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. 28

The meeting of the board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative was held on Jan. 28 in Napoleon. The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Chairman Victor Wald. A quorum was present. Also present were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Legal Counsel Tom Bair, Chief of Staff/Line Superintendent Dale Nagel, Member Relations Manager Marcy Sanders and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: An amendment was presented to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a Logan County Irrigation District meeting and Western Area Power Administration representative meeting. Meeting updates were also provided for a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association managers meeting and a Basin Electric Power Cooperative district meeting. The co-general managers also reviewed several bills that are being discussed during this year's legislative session. Several Basin Electric, West Dakota Utility Services and

3C Construction reports were available for review.

Department reports: Kupper provided the financial report. Nagel provided a department report with safety statistics and construction and line patrol updates. Sanders provided a department report, which included annual meeting information and youth programs. Bair provided a legal counsel report, including information on a wildlife mitigation plan bill being discussed at the legislative session as well as other items.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed upcoming meetings as well as other items.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Carter Vander Wal certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. April 22 in Linton. If you wish to be placed on the agenda, please call the office. ⚡

Wald earns two certificates



Cooperatives adhere to seven cooperative principles and our board of directors works to uphold those principles inside the boardroom as well as in their communities and everyday life. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our board engages in ongoing education and training to

uphold one of the seven cooperative principles – education, training and information.

Throughout directors' terms, they must attend and maintain certain education certificates to ensure they are staying current and informed on the industry.

We would like to recognize Director Victor Wald for earning two certificates, the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). Through the Director Education Program, Wald completed five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors to earn his CCD Certificate. The second part of the Director Education Program is the BLC program, which consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific topics, such as power supply and policy. ⚡

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, Chairman Napoleon
Carmen Essig, Vice Chairman Lehr
Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
Dean Dewald, Director Dawson
John R. Beck, Director Linton
Neil Meidinger, Director Zeeland
Vacancy, Director-at-large

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MANAGEMENT:

Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz Co-GM/CEO

Report outages to the following toll-free number: 800-472-2673

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges' phone number: 701-254-4666

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Website: kemelectric.com
Email address: info@kemelectric.com

FIND US ON:

